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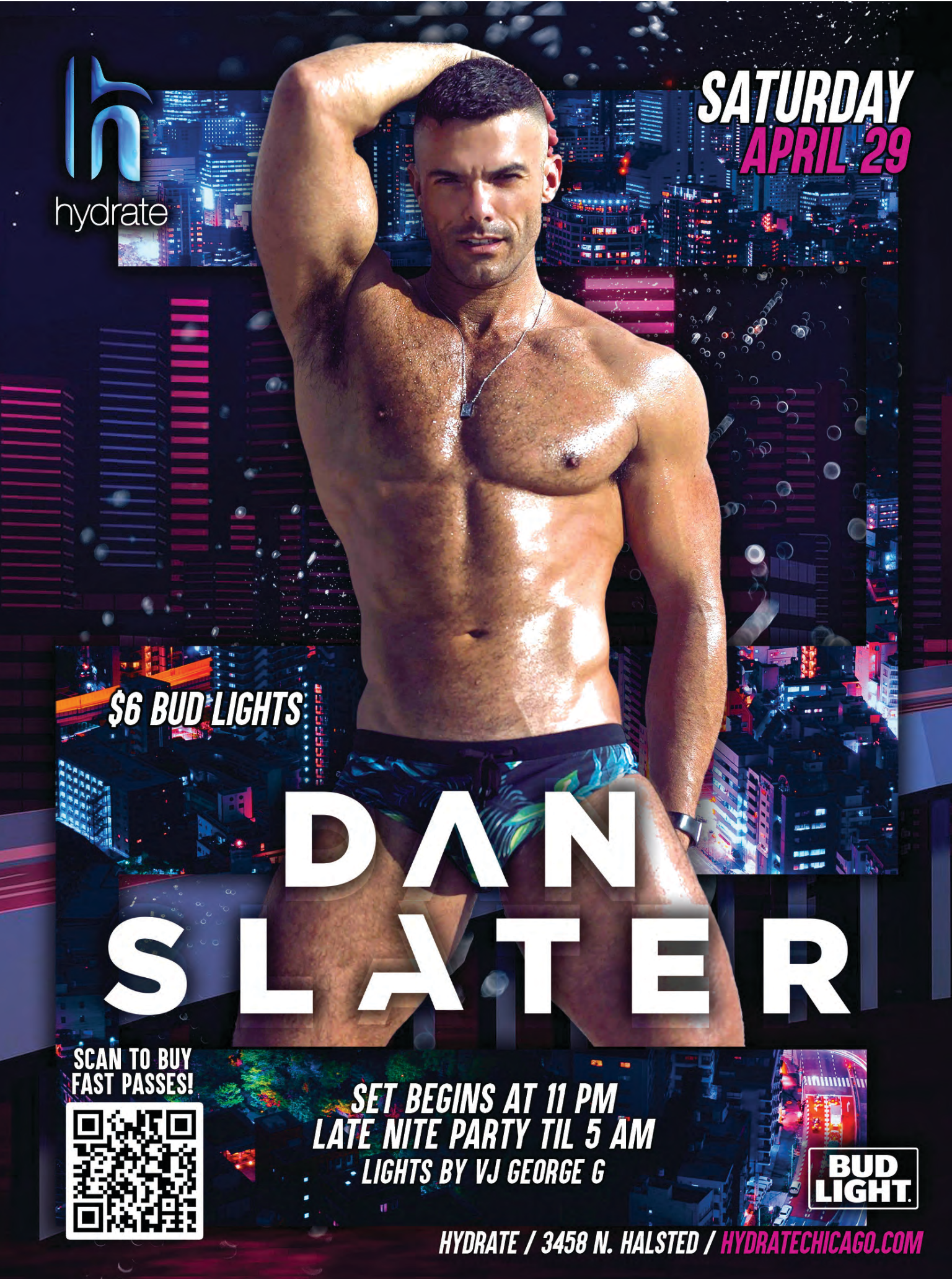
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GRAB ALISON

A matter of taste: An interview with Alison Riley

By Gregg Shapiro

Even the best cooks and bakers among us know that not every attempt at food preparation turns out to be the way it was intended. Part essay collection/part cookbook, writer and creative-director Alison Riley's "Recipe for Disaster: 40 Superstar Stories of Sustenance and Survival" (Chronicle Books, 2023) folds in humorous and heartfelt tales to satisfy almost every appetite. A culinary combination of first-hand experiences and interviews, "Recipe For Disaster" features contributions from Riley's musician wife Meshell Ndegeocello, as well as Samantha Irby, Bowen Yang, Simon Doonan, Michael W. Twitty, Sarah Silverman, Alice Waters, and Chelsea Peretti, to name a few. Riley recently made time to answer a few questions about the book.

Gregg Shapiro: Alison, what can you tell the readers about the genesis of "Recipe for Disaster: 40 Superstar Stories of Sustenance and Survival"?
Alison Riley: I was mulling over the phrase "Recipe for Disaster" for a while before I was approached about collaborating with Chronicle Books. I knew it was something; it's a good fit within my general sensibility around making the most, and the best, of the worst, but I wasn't sure what until then. Once I started talking with the editor there, the shape of the book came together pretty quickly, though I had no idea how diverse the responses would, or could, be. It really shaped itself once the contributors started contributing.

GS: What was involved in the process of soliciting contributors for "Recipe for Disaster"?
AR: Many, many, many emails and phone calls, a lot of rejection, some plain silence, significant ego-checking on my part, and so much patience and gratitude.

GS: Was everyone you solicited able to contribute an essay or interview?
AR: Absolutely not! I probably asked over 100 people, if not many more, and these 40 are those who agreed.

GS: "Recipe for Disaster" features many LGBTQ+ contributors – Meshell Ndegeocello, Bowen Yang, Samantha Irby, Michael W. Twitty, Jacqueline Woodson, Simon Doonan, Becca Blackwell, and Kyle Abraham. As a member of the community yourself, please say something about the importance of having those voices represented.
AR: Well, honestly, I didn't have to think very hard about it. I would personally not be interested in something with a multitude of voices that didn't include a myriad of perspectives. And all those people that you've named, as well as Gabrielle Hamilton and Fran Tirado, are all totally different from one another. I hadn't tallied the queers myself but now considering that list, it is nice to see that even among "the community" there is such a diversity of people there and they share a wide range of stories, from the AIDS crisis to family rejection to the universal tale of not being nice enough to your mother.

GS: I recently interviewed Samantha Irby about her new book "Quietly Hostlile," which also features essays about food. Her essay "Rejection Chicken" is a perfect way to open the book, with its combination of humor and food. What does it mean to you to have an essay by Samantha leading off your book?
AR: Thank you for asking that because it means so much to me, actually. I admire Sam's humor and

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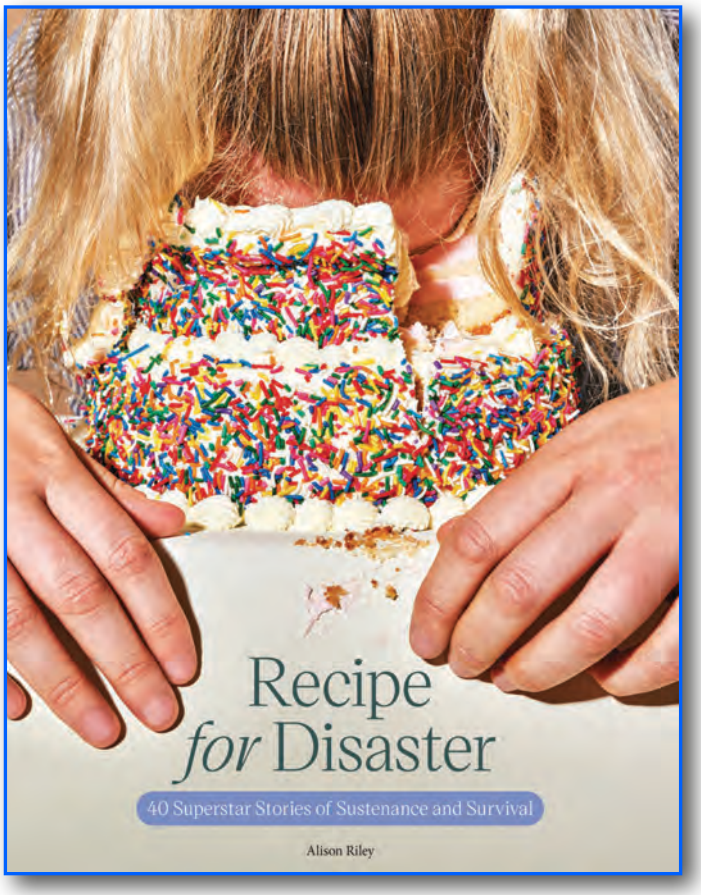
style very much and her willingness to be part of the book was a personal victory and a huge compliment. Seeing the beauty, the humor, or the value in something sad and terrible, especially while it's happening, is something I treasure in a person whether I know them or not.

GS: Your wife Meshell's essay is heartbreaking, but the conclusion in which she writes about clarifying her priorities – "friendship, musical integrity, people and partners that made me better, clean food and decent coffee" – ends on a hopeful note. Please say something about her contribution to the book.
AR: Meshell is my hero in that very sense – she has consistently made the choice to follow her own musical voice and not to capitulate to industry expectation or to the narrowness of genre, and she is one of the most authentic musical thinkers I know. I was grateful for her sharing a glimpse of how difficult it has been to stay true to herself and describe how little respect the music industry had (and certainly still has in plenty of ways) for an out, queer, black, woman before there were very many in the public eye.

GS: There are a series of essays near the center of the book that take a serious turn, touching on 9/11, the bombing of Belgrade, and the pandemic. Please say something about the inclusion of those types of pieces.
AR: I didn't prescribe tone or topic for anyone I asked to contribute to the book (though I didn't want it to become dominated by Covid) and those responses were honest and immediate responses to my prompt. Disasters, like everything, span a continuum and I was glad to have stories along all points.

GS: Have you tried any or all the foods and recipes mentioned?
AR: I am far more fluent in low points than I am in food so, in all truthfulness, I don't cook much. That said, I have tried many, some just to be sure the recipes made sense. Having a recipe for Alice Waters' vinaigrette was worth doing the whole project.



GS: Could there be a "Recipe for Disaster 2" in the works?
AR: We'll see! I had a great time putting this book together, it was more fun and more work than I could have imagined and would love to do it again.

GS: Alison, I'd like to end with a quote from the Justin Vivian Bond essay: "If I feel like I need to cheer myself up, or if I want to show somebody I love them, I say, 'How about if I just fry us up some potatoes?'" Would you agree that food preparation is one of the ultimate expressions of love?
AR: Of course, it is! I don't show my own love that way, and no one wants me to because of my sorry culinary skills, but it certainly is a tried-and-true way to care for another person. One of my favorite parts of this book is how many of these recipes are about feeding oneself and the importance of caring for yourself when disaster strikes. We often forget to do that, and if this book does anything besides make people a little less afraid and a little more prepared to take care of themselves and each other, I'm satisfied.

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- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
  - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
  - **Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.**
  - If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver function and monitor your HBV infection. It may be necessary to give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking DOVATO.

For more information about side effects, see "What are possible side effects of DOVATO?"

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DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults: who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Please see additional Important Facts About DOVATO on the following page.

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Important Facts About DOVATO (cont'd)

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- take dofetilide. Taking DOVATO and dofetilide can cause side effects that may be serious or life-threatening.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
  - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
  - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
  - If you can become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
  - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
  - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
  - DOVATO passes to your baby in your breast milk.
  - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:
- See **"What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?"**

What are possible side effects of DOVATO? (cont'd)

- **Allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems. People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under "Liver problems."**
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).**
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Where can I find more information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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On Thursday, April 27, join Chicago's restaurant community for Dining Out For Life Chicago to ensure people in Chicago affected by HIV can access essential services. Dine at a participating restaurant, and a percentage of your bill will be donated to TPAN to support programs such as HIV testing and an LGBTQIA+ youth drop-in center. If you can't go out to eat, order takeout, purchase a gift card, or make a donation to TPAN.

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GRAB *SANTI*

SANTI Baby

By Bill Gerrity

Much of *SANTI*'s early life is reflected in his music today. Songs touch on his Latino culture and his experiences as an immigrant living in the USA, as well as being a flamboyant kid and misfit.

This month he is releasing *"PerreON"*, the first single from his soon-to-be-released full-length album. It is a futuristic, fun, upbeat and very sexy dance track that combines house music with reggaeton elements.

For the video, he sports some of the leading urban fashion design houses of today. He wears looks from Patrick Church, Lucas Stowe, Sho Konishi, and FBMT. "Fashion has always been important to me," *SANTI* says. "I love to sew and alter my clothing to express my individualism and to make statements. It's a way for me to show the world that I can wear dresses, skirts and heels and still be masculine. I can paint my nails and still be sexy as hell."

We spoke with the Tik Tok star – turned – singer from his Miami home.

Bill Gerrity: How many days a week do you work out?
SANTI: I try to work out at least four times a week. Resting and eating well are big parts of the regimen. I've been working out since I was fourteen years old to build the muscle mass I have today.

BG:Are you strict with your diet?
Santi: I try to be.

BG: What part of your body are you most proud of today?
Santi: My brain.

BG: How long have you been recording music?
Santi:I've written songs for as long as I can remember. I used to dance in the mirror pretending to be a pop star. I'm proud of myself for chasing the dreams I had as a kid. I have been working really hard these past few months making so much music and producing many music videos. I'm putting all of my focus on music and I'm coming hard for this, girlies.

BG: Who are some of your musical inspirations?
Santi: Beyoncé, for obvious reasons, and Gaga, duh. I also love Rosalia. I think she's such a unique artist who is pushing boundaries. SZA is one of my favorites, for sure. I'm also very inspired by the late Venezuelan rapper Canserbero. He was an incredible songwriter and storyteller and he happened to be from my hometown of Maracay.

BG: Growing up, were you obsessed with music videos?
Santi: I was definitely obsessed with music videos. Gaga's especially. The way she captures culture and references art… it really inspires me. I think what pushed me to love music so much and want to make it is the artistry of it all, the music videos and the art direction behind it. I'm very inspired by cinematography and film as well. They all make me wanna create

iconic visuals.

BG:What do you hope fans take away from the PerreON music video?
Santi: The whole project is a love letter to Latin culture. I wanted to make something beautiful that represented me as a Latino, in a futuristic and modern way.

BG:Can you tell us a little bit about PerreON and how the song came about?
Santi: I wrote perreON in Los Angeles while I was there working with my music producer, Sam J Gardfield. We completed the record in two days, which is insane. I happened to be in top creative form when I was in Los Angeles because I had just found out that a modeling shoot I had done a few months before had made it into the pages of Vogue Magazine in Japan. I think my good mood from that day reflects in the song is. I was feeling myself and it's all about getting it ON.

BG: How old were you when you first came out?
Santi: I was fifteen and in love, or so I thought.

BG: How was it received by your family?
Santi:My mom wasn't thrilled at first, but she and my family fully embrace me now.

BG: Did you experience any discrimination coming out in a machismo country like Venezuela?
Santi: Oh yes, I was bullied all throughout high school. I remember cars passing by with groups of guys yelling "faggot" at me out of their windows. It was traumatic and I definitely carried that trauma into my adult life for some time.

BG: Is there a piece of advice you wish you could have given to your young self?
Santi: I wish I could tell my young self to not pay any mind to other people's nonsense opinions. I wish I could show him a mirror at what those losers were going to look like ten years later and what I look like. He needed to know that he was going to grow up to be a bad bitch and icon.

BG: You sound pretty confident in yourself.
Santi: These days I am so secure and proud of who I am. I am a strong independent gay man who give no f***s about what people think about me. If they have a problem with how I present myself, that's on them.

BG: Sticky. Silky. Sweet. Salty. Which word best describes *SANTI*?
Santi: Definitely sweet. I'm a super loving and kind person at heart.

BG: Now to the important questions. Growing up, what was your favorite cartoon?
Santi: The Simpsons.

BG: What was your first car?
Santi: I've never owed a car!

BG: How do you get around?
Santi: I've had motorcycles since I was a teenager. These days I ride a Ninja Kawasaki.

BG:What do you mean when you say you want to be treated like a slut?
Santi: Me and my girlies are taking the word slut and owning it as empowerment. A slut is a state of mind; a feeling. A slut is somebody who is in charge of their self. They are confident in how they conduct themselves and what they want out of life and they do not care what others think or say.

BG: What would be your idea of a perfect first date?
Santi: Beach, blunt, sex.

BG: What's your worst habit?
Santi: I sleep too much.

BG: What's the worst job you've ever had?
Santi: Hosting at a restaurant. I hate greeting people and I hate fake smiling. I was a stripper once and that was definitely way more fun than hosting.

BG:Who is your #1 fan?
Santi: My mommy.

SANTI's new single, "PerreON," is available on Apple Music, Spotify and all digital platforms. Follow on Instagram @ SANTI

Photo By Randal Ruiz

GRAB MUSIC

Q-Music: Say gay playlist

By Gregg Shapiro

Anyone who has been following queer singer/songwriter **Caroline Rose** since her independently released 2010 debut album "I Will Not Be Afraid" through her latest, 2023's "The Art of Forgetting" (New West) knows that she's comfortable slipping in and out of genres. From alternative country (on "…Afraid") to modern rock with a healthy dose of humor on 2018's brilliant "Loner," from concept pop (2020's "Superstar") to musical experimentation, with a heavy helping of heartache on the break-up album "The Art of Forgetting." While the sonic shift might be unsettling to some Rose fans, it's fair to say she's a natural (like Taylor Swift) at getting her pointed point across, especially on "Miami," "Rebirth," "Everywhere I Go I Bring The Rain," "Tell Me What You Want," "Jill Says," and "Where Do I Go From Here?" The musical equivalent of misery loves company.

Matthew V

For his aptly titled new album "Anything Goes" (604/Warner), Vancouver-based, Juno-nominated queer performer ***Mathew V*** is the latest gay male artist to try his hand at flipping the hetero-normative switch by singing songs originally sung by women to men. He opens the record with a stunning rendition of "Moon River" that would surely make Audrey Hepburn, Henry Mancini, and Johnny Mercer smile "wider than a mile." "Big Spender" succeeds by being both campy and respectful, and he sounds like he was born to sing Gershwin's "The Man I Love." Mathew's take on "Don't Rain On My Parade" takes on extra meaning with Pride celebrations around the world under threat from conservatives, and his original composition "My Boy" fits perfectly with these Great American Songbook standards.

Since the 1990s, Olympia, Washington has been the source of some of the most groundbreaking queer music in history made by bands including Bikini Kill, Team Dresch, Sleater-Kinney, Tracy + the Plastics, and others. If you haven't yet had the chance to experience Olympia's queercore folk-punk outfit ***Pigeon Pit***, led by trans vocalist Lomes Oleander, now is your chance. "Tree House" (Ernest Jennings), Pigeon Pit's 2017 six-song acoustic EP has just been reissued on vinyl. Pigeon Pit's new 10-song album "Feather River Canyon Blues" (Ernest Jennings), on pink and white vinyl, is a more fully realized band album. Opening with

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Pigeon Pit - Photo by Bo Lark

the Ezra Furman-esque "Love Letters," the album alternates between a kind of Furman fury ("Milk Crates," "Empties"), glorious queer folk ("River Song," "Fire Escape," "Sunbleached") and twinkling twang ("Clawfoot," "Soup For My Family"). [Pigeon Pit performs on May 6 & 7 in Chicago at Moonrunners Music Fest and on May 9 in Milwaukee at Litehouse.]

For the longest time, the jazz genre had a reputation for being unwelcoming to LGBTQ+ folks. However, in recent years, out jazz artists including Allison Miller, Fred Hersch, Terri Lyne Carrington, Patricia Barber, Andy Bey, Gary Burton, Lea DeLaria, and Dave Koz, have been making a difference by being their true selves. We can now add newly out jazz pianist Eric Reed to the growing list. His new album, "Black, Brown, and Blue" (Smoke Sessions), featuring the original title track composition, as well as interpretations of songs by Thelonious Monk ("Ugly Beauty"), Wayne Shorter ("Infant Eyes"), Duke Ellington ("I Got it Bad"), Bill Withers ("Lean on Me"), Stevie Wonder ("Pastime Paradise"), Horace Silver ("Peace"), and McCoy Tyner ("Search For Peace") is said to be a kind of narrative of his coming out

Portland-based ***Black Belt Eagle Scout*** (aka Katherine Paul), who describes herself as a "radical indigenous queer feminist," has only released three full-length studio albums, but she sounds so accomplished, you'd think she'd had a much longer recording career under her, well, black belt. The title of her new album, "The Land, The Water, The Sky" (Saddle Creek), refers to her returning to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community (on Washington's Puget Sound) of her ancestors during the pandemic. Opening with the kind of guitar gut punch that feels very Pacific Northwest, she sings "I know it's hard to be here" on "My Blood Runs Through This Land," indicating to listeners that this won't be an easy experience. And yet, a kind of détente is achieved over the course of the 12 songs, the best of which include "Fancy Dance," "Nobody," "Blue," "Treeline," and "Don't Give Up." [Black Belt Eagle Scout performs on July 22 at Pitchfork Music Festival.]

According to Luz Elena Mendoza Ramos, the lead vocalist of ***Y La Bamba***, the songs on "Lucha" (Tender Loving Empire) explore "love, queerness, Mexican-American and Chicanx identity, family, intimacy, yearning, loneliness." This is a tall order for any artist, but Ramos is more than up to the task, singing in Spanish and English. Like the Black Belt Eagle Scout album, Y La Bamba's "Lucha" is a product of the pandemic, and as such feels both raw and healing, as you can hear on "Hues" (featuring Devendra Banhart), "Collapse," "Nunca," "Mas Manos," "Walk Along," and an especially haunting cover of Hank Williams' "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." [Y La Bamba performs on May 20 at the Empty Bottle.]

Luz Elena Mendoza Photo By Jimena Zavala Lozada

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GRAB RUPAWL

Canine Influencer Unleashes Fierce New Line of Drag Queen-Inspired Apparel for Dogs

By Justin Demmers

Instagram sensation *"RuPawl the Doggie Drag Queen"* is launching a collection of canine clothing and accessories inspired by the queens from RuPaul's Drag Race. Dubbed Doggie Drag, the fashion line features an array of stunning and flamboyant pieces that capture the essence of drag culture. "Our line of dog clothing and accessories are about celebrating individuality and self-expression," says, José Lizárraga founder and CEO of Doggie Drag. "Four-legged divas can shine as bright as the queens on the show. They deserve the opportunity to express their resplendence, nerve, and talent, too."

The collection features a range of eye-catching outfits, from brightly colored feather boas to sparkling sequined dog tags and bold statement charms. Pooches can be transformed into blonde bombshells in Doggie Drag's Queen Mutha wig. It comes with a tulle bow with metal clip and adjustable chin straps. Or they can sashay away in the Mutha of the Runway gown, an opulent tulle explosion that includes glistening silver embellishments. Dogs can rule the racetrack in a hot pink and checkered Start Your Engines jumpsuitinspired by the outfit RuPaul wore in the poster art of the first season of RuPaul's Drag Race. It features color patches and crystal silver ornamentation. Or they can join the Pit (bull) Crew and serve masculine realness in their Doggie Drag Bandana.

Every piece is designed with a keen eye for detail and a commitment to quality, ensuring that dogs look and feel their best while strutting their sassy tails on the streets.

"Doggie Drag is fun and humorous but it is also important," Lizárraga continues. "We are living in a time when the drag community is being targeted and attacked by right wing conservatives. We see Doggie Drag as a part of the effort to promote drag as a form of resistance and joy, to highlight the artistry of leading drag talent and showcase the beauty and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community."

The RuPawl phenomenon started in the spring of 2017 when ***Dr. Lizárraga*** began posting images of the little pup that he and his partner ***Dr. Arturo Cortez*** rescued from the San Francisco SPCA. Fans loved the playful and curious chihuahua, not only for their super-cute look, but for their fierce and fabulous lewks. Lil RuPawl, as the pup came to be known, lit up Instagram wearing replicas of the gowns seen on RuPaul's Drag Race, created by their owner, Dr. Lizárraga.

Over the past few years, RuPawl has modeled Dr. Lizárraga's canine-crafted interpretations of some of the most iconic RuPaul's Drag Race creations including *Ginger Minj*'s Pop Art look from All Stars 6, a stunningly accurate rendering of *Maddy Morphosis*'s Rain Clowd gown, and Willow Pill's blue strawberry gown reimagined with blue Kong chew toys. RuPawl recently wowed fans with Dr. Lizárraga's version of *Mistress Isabelle Brook*'s puff gown and *Sasha Colby*'s gown that paid homage to Beyoncé.

RuPawl has become a staple within the drag community, even appearing at 2018's Drag Con in Los Angeles where they met fans and interacted with stars from RuPaul's Drag Race. ***V****anessa Vanjie Mateo*, in particular, couldn't

get enough of Lil RuPawl, gushing over RuPawl's outfit and wig.

RuPawl's social media content has gained an international following that, in addition to well-known drag artists, includes LGBTQ+ scholars, activists, and celebrities. The @RuPawl_official page has won two Webby Awards (and is currently nominated for a third), recognizing it as an important platform for socio-political issues affecting the LGBTQ + community.

"We're excited about the growth potential of the RuPawl and Doggie Drag brands," Dr. Lizárraga says. "Drag is everyday art but it is also the perfect way to include our loveable canines in celebratory occasions like Pride, Halloween, weddings and more. Whether you're attending a parade or dressing up for a costume party, Doggie Drag shines the spotlight on your glam dog's unique personality and sense of style."

Doggie Drag couture items are currently available in small and medium sizes, however some accessories are for dogs of all sizes. Pride items including a Rainbow gown will be available in early June.

For more information visit ***DoggieDrag.com***

GRAB MATTEO

Hopefully, Matteo Lane Doesn't Hate This Interview

The comedian on quarantine and journalists who write about him

By Chris Azzopardi

There are many places where you've probably seen Matteo Lane — among them, on Netflix's queer comic showcase "The Comedy Lineup" and on his something-for-everyone Instagram, where he's been wearing more shirts.

This shift happened during the pandemic. Lane tells me he decided to pull back from thirst-trap pics, at least a bit (a recent tour poster features him slurping on spaghetti sans shirt), and offer more of his comedic thoughts. On Instagram, you'll find him doing just that on everything from a visit to the Museum of Sex in New York to making dishes featuring his Italian heritage. For instance, in one how-to video while he's making penne alla vodka, he admits not ordering penne in Italy because the risk is too great for the word to be misheard as "pene," which means exactly what you think it does: penis.

Here, Lane talks about touring, why the pandemic doesn't always make for great comedic material and that time a journalist made him sound like a "depressed Fiona Apple."

Chris Azzopardi: How is doing an LGBTQ+ benefit show different than a typical Matteo Lane show?
Matteo Lane: Well, for a performer, things don't change. I have a job to do. My job is to go up and be as funny as possible for the allotted time I'm given, and I hate to say, but that's pretty much it. That's the benefit of working in New York for so long, in so many different types of rooms and shows and bars and basements and houses and clubs and train stations — that you have worked up enough skill to perform in any environment.

So obviously because it's a fundraiser and it's full of queer people, they're not going to be hostile to me. If I was doing a fundraiser for, I don't know, hunting, that might be different. It might be out of place and they'd be like, "Please leave." And I'd be like, "You're right." But yeah, I mean, I'm happy to do anything I can to help out, and all I can really offer is my sense of humor, so hopefully it brings some joy to people.

CA:Have you entered a room where it did feel hostile, first of all?
ML: I'm a homosexual. Yes. Let's start with the Catholic Church. Let's start with locker rooms. Let's start with school in general. So yes, I have experienced not feeling welcome.

CA:As a comedian, though, have you been in a space that wasn't welcoming to you?

ML: Yes. The thing is, it's hard to explain to people sometimes, because people just don't know. People say things to you, or don't understand comedy or the world of comedy. It's not like I was excited to be a comedian and then suddenly I'm performing for sold out rooms. I spent 12 years performing in literal basements with three people, places all the way in deep Brooklyn. You just perform wherever you can. Nothing glamorous really happens to you until, for me, a year ago. So yeah, there's been so many times I've been on stage and people either make assumptions, or don't like that I'm gay, or whatever. But you know what? At the end of the day, my goal is to try and bridge that gap and show them we're more alike than we are different.

CA:We're living through a very polarized and divisive time, if you look at the political climate and what's happening to drag queens.

I imagine conservatives would have a lot to say about children coming to you
ML: Well, I don't want children at my show, let's just start there. And number two, these conservative politicians, it's the most simple, basic therapy. Obviously, no one's mad at a drag queen reading to a child. They're mad about something else. And I think it's because they're losing grip with reality, and they know that they're losing touch, and they know they're losing their stand in America, and this is the last attempt to try and gain some control, and have kind of a message. Because the best way to get people on your side is through fear. And so they're trying to instill fear in people. And it's like, well, we've got arms, poison, car accidents, alcohol, the Catholic Church. These things hurt kids more than a drag queen reading a kid a book about Humpty Dumpty. You know what I mean? I think the most frustrating problem is that they don't actually care, but we are an easy target for them because they know they can instill fear into people. But I think their days are coming to an end.

CA:It all reeks of desperation. And I also grew up Catholic, so everything you're saying about Catholicism is extremely relatable to a young queer kid, such as myself, who grew up feeling like I had to make a choice. It was either God or being gay.
ML: Right. Well, for priests, it's both. By the way, I hope when you write this... I hate doing interviews because when people write stuff, I think I'm coming off funny, and then I read it, and you guys always try and make me sound way more serious than I actually am, and it ruins the vibe. So please do me a favor, and don't make me sound like I'm proselytizing and preaching. I'm here to be a comic.

CA:It sounds like that's something you're very conscious of.
ML: Because I did an interview once, years ago, for a magazine. I was trying to be really funny, and being funny sometimes can be self-deprecating, and they twisted it on me and made it sound like I was this depressed Fiona Apple who's trying to do comedy. And I'm like, "Wow, OK, lesson learned that not everyone has your best interests in mind when doing things."

CA:Does that make it difficult to talk to journalists for you? Not being able to really control the narrative?
ML: Yeah, because it's not really in my control. If we're doing a TV interview, I'm fully in control. People hear how I say things, see how I say things. When people write stuff, they put their voice into [my] head, and assume how I feel, and it's tricky.

CA: Yeah, I get that. But I've been doing this for a long time, and it's really important to me to make sure that I preserve the voice of the subject that I'm interviewing.
ML: Gosh, the title of the article is Matteo Lane, in quotes: "I hate myself."

CA: mentioned your ascension earlier. But when you look back, and you touched on this a bit, how do you reflect on your journey to getting to this place right now in your career?
ML: I was just talking about this with my therapist today, and I'm so in the eye of the storm that I can't quite feel it yet. I just sort of feel like I'm still working, just more. Nothing has really changed. I mean, I have better

hair now. But I'm just always on planes, always in hotels, just performing. I feel like Liza Minnelli. I'm taking a break this summer, so hopefully I can reflect on the cool things I've done. But I'm just kind of a workhorse right now. So I haven't really thought about it, to tell you the truth. I'm happy.

CA:What's your process for writing your comedy?
ML: I write on stage, so I use the Comedy Cellar in New York to write. I can't sit at a coffee shop and write for hours. My brain just doesn't do that. So what I do is I have ideas and go on stage, and record myself and work them out on stage. Write with the audience. And then figure it out through repetition that way.

CA:Are you watching the audience to see what works best?
ML: You're listening, yeah. If they laugh, yay.

CA: Well, that's the goal, right?
ML: Evidently not every comedian's goal, but that is my goal.

CA:What about the material on this tour? It's been an interesting time in the world, as we talked about, and you, like the rest of us, were in isolation for a while. Did you draw upon any of that for this show?
ML: Yeah. I mean, you would be surprised, but when you get in front of a thousand people, they don't want to be reminded that they were quarantined for two years. But also, too, what am I bringing to the conversation that Twitter, TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat... I have to think of things that are a little more evergreen and universal, that will last for more than just what's happening in the now, because people made the jokes already. I talk about Fortnite and Call of Duty a lot, because that's what I was doing the whole time I was in the pandemic, and I wrote a lot of material as a result of it. So a lot of material came from the pandemic, but it's not an hour where I'm like, "And remember when?"
You just make a decision of where you want to go. And I mean, it's frustrating, because we all went through some shit deep trauma for two years and we all just pretend it didn't happen. But during the pandemic, I was doing all those park shows and rooftop shows, and I talked about it then, but then you just naturally feel that the time is up.

CA: How do you navigate between the obvious gay thirst for you and also the interest in your actual work as a comedian?
ML: Depends on how horny I am. I don't know. Am I feeling lonely? Do I need to date someone? Throw up a shirtless picture, see what you can get. Pretty much it. I'm no different than any other gay. I just want attention.
I mean, to tell you the truth, I haven't posted thirst traps regularly. I mean, I was, up until the pandemic, and then I just made the decision to start posting my material instead. I really benefited from having people appreciate me for my thoughts. I enjoy working out, and I enjoy feeling good and healthy, and I'm very proud to say I see a trainer and eat healthy. And I don't drink, and I don't do drugs. And that's just sort of a life I chose.

CA: After your Lansing show, after touring, what's next?
ML: Eating pasta in Italy.

CA: What's the Matteo Lane fan base like in Italy?
ML: Gay, but they speak Italian.

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TUESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: . $3 House Shots, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: $5Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts***.@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Game Night with Tony. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** Tune Up Tuesday Karaoke 7 – 11PM, Tag Team Tuesdays 11p – 2am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** . 50cent Wing Night 5pm-10pm, Must Purchase a drink for special. Dine in Only. ***Hydrate:*** TatTuesday XXL Doors open at 8pm. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. Open auditions for male dancers 7pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts. Happy Hour Specials 5pm–8pm: $5 Stoli Mules (all flavors). Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Canned Beers, Seltzers & Ciders. ***Shakers on Clark:*** $3 Domestic Beers. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Trivia Tuesday 8-10pm, TRL Tuesday: Totally Rad Line-up of 90's-to-Now Music Videos 10pm-2am, OUTspoken LGBTQ+ Storytelling 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. ***Steamworks:*** Every Tuesday 4 pm – 4 am Guys Under 25 Get In Free* (*Free 30 day membership and free locker). ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Amsterdam Cocktails, $5 Tallboys Everyday Specials:,$5Jager, $5 Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am***.***Hardcore Cruisin' No Cell Phones/Wifi.

WEDNESDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $ New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Tallboy Beers Specials: Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, Sapphire's Secret Shadows 10pm – 1 am, Dancing until close. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons, Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $4Miller Lite Drafts, $5 Stolis (All Flavors). Happy Hour Specials 7pm–10pm: $6 Any BIG drafts Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am $5 Lagunitas Draft & Cans. ***Shakers on Clark***: Karaoke Night $1 Off Long Islands. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, All Things Taylor & Ariana 1st Wed of month, All Things Beyoncé 2nd Wed of month, All Things Gaga 3rd Wed of month, All Things Britney & Rihanna last Wed of month: all 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Bear Hump Every second Wednesday 6-9pm A monthly mid-week gathering of Furry Men. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $5 Tito's Cocktails, $7 Big Miller Lite Drafts Everyday Specials: $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)FreeDarts ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Jockstrap Night. Free Clothing Check.

THURSDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes & Bourbons . Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts***. @mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, RuPaul Drag Race All Stars 6 Viewing Party - 7pm. ***Charlie's:*** Survivor 10 pm – 1 am, Dancing Until Close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** Bottomless Tacos! $23.95 5pm-10pm , Must purchase a beverage for special. Dine in Only. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Miller Lit Tallboys Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis..***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open at 6pm. Dancers at 8pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $6 Tito Cocktails, Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $5 Deep Eddy Cocktails. ***Shakers on Clark:*** Darts Night $1 off Fireball, Jager, Malort and Well Shots, $2.50 PBR Cans. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, Let's Go Thursdays with Alex Kay & Friends 9pm-2am. ***Steamworks:*** Lights Out Thursdays, The Club goes Dark Every Thursday 4pm-4am. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails$5 Tallboy Beers Everyday Specials: , $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am.Throwback Thursdays70's& 80's Music & Porn by BijouVideo.

Daily Specials;

FRIDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts$3 House Shots. Happy Hour Specials: 3pm–6pm: $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 6-8pm, Dancers 10pm-1am. Baton Show Lounge: Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 4pm-2am. ***Charlie's:*** 1st and 3rd Fierce Fridays 10p – 1am, 2nd Fierce Fridays - Traffic Light Party 10p – 1am, 4th Fierce Fridays - Glow Up Party 10p – 1am, 5th Fierce Fridays – Strut 10p – 1am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** TGIFSpecial $5 Effen Cocktails and $4 Hornitos Shots.Hydrate:Fresh Faces A New Drag Competition Second and Forth Friday of the Month. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 Miller Lite Tallboys $8 New Amsterdam & Redbull Happy Hour Specials 5–9pm: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons $5 Chicago Handshake Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. Kit Kat Lounge: Happy Hour 5-7pm $8.95 Martinis. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $6 Tito's Cocktails $7.50 Big Miller Lites. Happy Hour Specials.5pm–8pm: $5 Chicago Handshakes. Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 4-7pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 3pm, TGIF Show Tunes 3-7pm, RuPaul's Drag Race Viewing Party 7-9:30pm, Friday Night Dance Party9:30pm- 2am.***The Sofo Tap:*** $3 House Shots, $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 3pm–6pm: $4 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials: $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tall Boys Beers (Buch Light, PBR, Hamm's), Free Darts.***Touche:*** Open 5pm - 4am. 4/28 Porn Poker Party. 5/5 Cinco de Mayo Full Moon Party.

SATURDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $6 Lagunitas IPADrafts. Happy Hour Specials: ½ Off All Drafts $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $5 Well Cocktails & Draft Beer 3pm-5pm, Dancers 10pm -1am. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors open at 6pm, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-3am. ***Charlie's:*** Country Line Dancing 7 – 10pm, The Main Event 10pm – 1am Dancing until Close. ***Jackhammer:*** $3 House Shots $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $5 Miller Lit Tallboys Happy Hour Specials 5–9pm: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons$5 Chicago HandshakeEveryday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers (Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. Jackhammer: $3 House Shots $5 Miller Lite TallBoys Happy Hour Specials: $5 Whiskeys, Ryes and Bourbons. Everyday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $5 Signature Margaritas Happy Hour Specials.2pm–5pm: $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails $12 Mimosa Carafes, Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 11am-2pm. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, SaturGay Drag & Games with Sasha & Zamora Love 3-6pm, Saturday Night Dance Party 9pm-3am, Dog Day 1st Saturday of the month 1-5pm. ***The Sofo Tap:*** $5 Lost Coast Tangerine Wheat, $5 Signature Margaritas, Happy Hour Specials: 12pm–3pm: ½ Off All Drafts Everyday Specials: $5Jager, Fireball & Malort, $4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts. ***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 5am. 4/29 Leather Eye for the Preppy Guy Makeover contest benefit for Groceryland Pantry.5/6 Chicago's Bear Night, Midnight Pizza Panic.

SUNDAY

2 Bears Tavern Uptown: $5 Signature Margaritas, $6 Chicago Handshakes Happy Hour Specials 2pm–5pm $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails Everyday Specials:$5 Jager, Fireball & Malort $4 Tallboy Beers (BuschLight, PBR, Hamm's), Free Pinball & Darts. ***@mosphere:*** $6 Jack Products, $4 Domestic Draft, House Shots $2. ***Baton Show Lounge:*** Doors Open at 11am, Shows at 7:30pm, 9:30pm & 11:30pm. ***Cell Block:*** Open 2pm-2am ***Charlie's:*** Queeriod! Every other Sunday 5pm – 7pm, Singsational Sunday Karaoke 7pm – 11pm Mas Leche 11pm – 1am, Dancing until close. ***D.S.Tequila Co:*** CoyoteUglyDrag Brunch$50all Inclusive food and beverage package plus Drag Show.***Hydrate:*** Doors open at 2pm Northalsted's Official after Brunch party. ***Jackhammer:*** $5 New Amsterdam CoctKails $7 Jackhammered Long Islands Happy Hour Specials :1st Sunday: $7 Planter's Punch2nd Sunday: $5 Dog Bowls (Premium Well) 3rd Sunday: $3 Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's Tallboy Beers4th Sunday: $5 Stoli Cocktails (Any Flavor)5th Sunday: $6 New Amsterdam & Red BullEveryday Specials: $5 Fireball, Jager & Malort Shots, $4 Tallboy Beers(Busch Light, PBR & Hamm's. ***Kit Kat Lounge:*** Divalicious brunch 11am-3pm, Happy Hour 4-7pm $8.95 Martinis .***Lucky Horseshoe:*** Open with dancers at 3pm. $5 drink specials. ***Meeting House Tavern:*** $3 House Shots, $12 Mimosa Carafes. Happy Hour Specials:7pm–10pm: $5 New Amsterdam Cocktails. Everyday Specials $5 Jager, Fireball & Malort. Free Darts & Pool. ***North End:*** Open at 11am, $3 Miller Lite Drafts 7-10pm ***Shakers on Clark***: $1 Off Any Bloody Mary, Milagro Tequila Mixed Drinks, or Tlito's Vodka Mixed Drinks. ***Sidetrack:*** Open at 1pm, Sunday Funday Show Tunes 4-9pm, Sunday Funday After Dark Dance Party 9pm-2am ***The Sofo Tap:*** $6 New Amsterdam Cocktails $7.50 Big Miller Lite Drafts Happy Hour Specials: 12pm–2pm: $3 Miller Lite Drafts 1pm–3pm: $3 House Shots FREE Chicago-style hot-dogs (while supplies last) Everyday Specials $5Jager, Fireball & Malort.$4 Tall Boy Beers (Busch Light, PBR,Hamm's)Free Darts.***Touche:*** Open 2pm - 4am. Beer Bust $2 Bud Light Drafts, Clubroom Opens 6pm, Movie Night 7pm.

GRAB A HIT

Top 30 Dance Chart this week

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	Artist	Title
1	NIIKO X SWAE ft. Allie Crystal	Nothing On Earth
2	Zack Martino	Kill My Heart
3	Anabel Englund	Need Me Right
4	Benny Benassi & Anabel Englund	Lightwaves
5	Disco Lines & Rain Radio	I See Colours (Original Mix)
6	James Chris	Variable (Radio Mix)
7	Jonasu & Clara Mae	Can't Do Both
8	Telykast	You Got Me (With Georgia Ku)
9	Deorro	You Are Not Alone ft. Dear Sara
10	Captain Cure X Zoeh G	Happy Place Radio Ft. Iz The Realest
11	Marf	Monday Ft. Philip Strand
12	Minelli	Could Be Something
13	Chloe Jane	Addicted
14	M22 & Ella Henderson	Heartstrings
15	Breathe Carolina x ManyFew	Dancing In The Dark (Radio Edit)
16	AWAKEND & CeCe Mix	Feel The Same
17	DJ Licious	In My Heart
18	Tungevaag X Steerner	Imma Love You
19	Fred Again x The Streets x Dermot Kennedy	Mike (Desert Island Duvet Remix)
20	Angrybaby	Hold You
21	Frank Walker	I Go Dancing ft. Ella Henderson (Joel Corry Remix)
22	Joel Corry x Becky Hill	History
23	Jordana Bryant	Can I Get It Back (R3hab Remix)
24	Morgan Page & Telykast	Dancing All Alone
25	Luis Torres & Corporate Slackrs	Can't Hide Ft. Emma Zander
26	Allegra	Amazing (Tobtok Remix)
27	Sick Individuals & Alle Farben	My Life ft. The Runaway Club
28	Tobtok & Adam Griffin	Overnight
29	Tiesto	Lay Low (Nick Strand X Mio Remix)
30	Taylor Swift	Lavender Haze (Felix Jaehn Remix)

leather eye

sat.april 28

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GRAB ROGER

What To Do When Your Property is Taken

By Roger V. McCaffre-Boss, Esq.

Q: My ex-lover (we did not get married) and I had a big blow-up and last week and while I was at work, she moved out of the apartment taking my stereo, most of my furniture, my family heirlooms. I don't want to go to the police but I would like to have my property returned. What are my legal rights?

A: The law provides a fast remedy to an owner of property who wants to recover possession of her property wrongfully taken. The remedy is called an action for replevin which is a special kind of lawsuit to determine who is entitled to possession of personal property - furniture, stereo, household items etc.

The replevin statute in Illinois sets forth the procedure to recover personal property. It starts with the filing of a replevin complaint that describes the property, states that the person starting the lawsuit (the plaintiff) is the owner of the property and that the property is being wrongfully detained or withheld by someone else (the defendant). The Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Richard J. Daley Center, has preprinted form complaints and summons for a replevin lawsuit.

The benefit of the replevin lawsuit is that it provides a fast resolution of plaintiff's property rights without the long delays that are normal in litigation. In a replevin lawsuit the plaintiff schedules the first or preliminary hearing and gives the defendant written notice of the preliminary hearing at least 5 days before it's date.

At that first hearing the plaintiff must prove three things to the court. First, that he or she is the owner of the property. Second, it is likely that he or she will win at the trial. And that the defendant has wrongfully taken or withholds the property without the consent of the owner.

If the judge rules for the plaintiff at the first hearing the judge will issue an order of replevin directing the Sheriff of Cook County to go to the defendant's address, recover the property and deliver it to the plaintiff. That order also informs the defendant of the date for the second hearing where the defendant can appear in court and present any defenses to the lawsuit.

Before the Sheriff can collect the property from the defendant the plaintiff must post a bond in an amount double the value of the property itemized in the complaint. The purpose of the bond is to ensure that the Plaintiff will return the property to the defendant in case the plaintiff losses the lawsuit.

The defendant can prevent her property from being seized by the Sheriff by posting a bond in the same amount as posted by the plaintiff. This will ensure that the defendant will appear in court and return the property to the rightful owner if the defendant loses.

If the Sheriff does seize the property from the defendant the plaintiff must prove at the second hearing that she is the actual owner of the property. This is done by sales receipts, canceled checks, contracts, bills of sale etc. If the plaintiff and defendant each claim ownership of the property the judge will have to decide based upon which person and witnesses the judge believes is telling the truth.

If the plaintiff wins, the court will award the property to the plaintiff and order the defendant to pay damages for the wrongful taking of the property.

If the Sheriff cannot find the property with the defendant, the replevin order will inform the defendant that the plaintiff wants the defendant to pay for the value of the property.

If the plaintiff proves at the second hearing that he or she is the owner the judge will give the plaintiff a judgment for the value of the property not recovered by the Sheriff and order the defendant to pay damages for the wrongful taking and keeping of the property. If the plaintiff loses, however, the judge will award damages to the defendant.

Roger McCaffrey-Boss is a gradute of Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, and is a member of the Chicago Bar Association. You can email him at ***RVMLawyer@aol.com****. He suggests that you consult your own lawyer for any specific questions regarding the issues raised in this column.*

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GRAB HOLLY

Recon Posts the Watch

By Holly Maholm

I watched from the window at Donut Time as the Legionnaires set up their camp. Later that evening, as darkness fell, I walked in the direction of the War Memorial, intending to see if the campers were lacking any necessities. As I arrived at the camp, I happened to look off into the near distance, where I observed Scallywag and Fletcher (invisible to all others) standing watchfully in the dark. Clearly, Victor, Defender of the Frolic, had detailed them to stand guard over the camp of the LGBT teenagers.

I saw the Legionnaires were gathered in a circle around a campfire, which they had started in an old, rusted-out and cut-down 50-gallon drum. In the warming illumination of the fire, I could make out the youthful faces of Dave's students, each one of whom I knew by name. Several noticed me and waved a greeting, but at that moment we were joined by a smaller group of men. Men for whom this was not their first campfire shared with brothers-in-arms.

It was the Outlaws: Recon, Fender and Tuco. The teenagers greeted the newcomers and adjusted their seats to make room for them around the fire. There was a burst of cheerful banter and good-natured joking about the dinners the men had already enjoyed – in comparison to the cold rations the youngsters had consumed, but it was not many minutes before Recon called out in a loud voice.

"Who have you got on watch? And who's the Duty Officer tonight?" He looked around at the group. "I hope you're not depending on Holly to keep watch!" There was much laughter – including my own – and Recon continued in a serious voice.

"I know Dave has got you guys reading the famous Roman generals, like Marcus Aurelius and Augustus Caesar, but if you really want to receive the education of an ordinary soldier during the Roman Empire, you need to learn what the 'enlisted men' knew. And that starts with 'posting a watch' whenever you stop to camp overnight." Recon got to his feet and issued his orders.

"Alright, I want everyone to count off, staring with you, Brian." This they did, calling out their numbers one-by-one going around the fire until the last student called out "fourteen." Recon continued. "Okay, numbers 1 and 2 will have the first watch from now to 10 o'clock. Then 3 and 4 take 10 to midnight; 5 and 6 take midnight to 2 am.; and so on. When you're on watch, you keep your wits about you and your eyes peeled for anyone trying to sneak up on our camp in the dark. And know who your relief is, so when your watch is over you can find them and wake them up to replace you."

He went on. "You have only each other to depend on now. Any one of you might be the man who gives the alarm and prevents an attack from decimating this platoon." He looked around at the faces of the young men, lit red by the fire and all turned in his direction. He went on.

"You men are no different from the men whose names are recorded here on the War Memorial. They all came from this small town, and they all died during the four years of the Civil War, so you can be sure they all knew each other. But when they went into combat, they forged a special kind of brotherhood, because they trusted their lives to the watchfulness and bravery of men they went to school with, who sat next to them when they learned their spelling words, and recited the names of the state capitals and the names of the Great Lakes.

"One more thing. When you come off your watch, throw another log on the fire, and keep it burning. We need the light in the camp overnight… but don't wake the other men if you can avoid it. Let them get their sleep." Recon sat back down, and the Legionnaire began to unroll their sleeping bags for the night.

I stayed a while longer, chatting with the Outlaws and a few of the teenagers. The Outlaws stayed long enough to give each young man their encouragement, after which they retired. At last I decided to leave, but on the way, I walked out into the darkness, where I saw the unicorns still on watch. When I reached them, Fletcher whispered.

"You didn't see them, did you?" "What? See who?" I replied. He continued, "We saw two 'creepers' dressed all in black – like ninjas – who snuck up pretty close to the camp while Recon was speaking. They heard what he said, then turned and snuck away."

Fletcher summed up, "That was a timely lesson he shared with those youngsters. More timely than they know."

(*To be continued)*

Holly Maholm is a transgender woman living in Cleveland, Ohio. Look for Holly's book Offered Magic: My Life Among the Unicorns (now available on Amazon) which collects the first 126 episodes of Holly's adventures involving both magical unicorns and her LGBTQ friends. Send a message to Holly at ***www.hollymaholm.com.***

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MONDAY	STAND UP COMEDY 8PM SIGN UP/8:30PM SHOW TIME	$1 OFF WELL DRINKS & WELL SHOTS
TUESDAY	FREE POOL TABLE ALL DAY!	$3 DOMESTIC BOTTLES
WEDNESDAY	KARAOKE 10PM-1AM	$1 OFF LONG ISLANDS (26 FLAVORS!)
THURSDAY	DARTS COMPETITION 8PM	$1 OFF FIREBALL, JAGER, MALORT, AND WELL SHOTS $2.50 PBR CANS
FRIDAY	KARAOKE NIGHT 9:30PM-1:30AM	

SHAKERS ON CLARK

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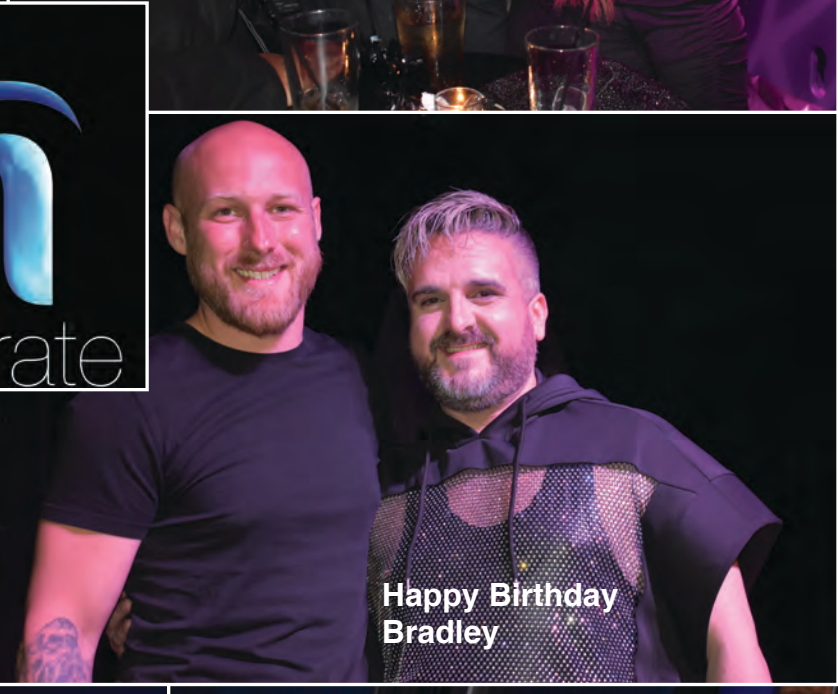
Photos By Anthony Meade



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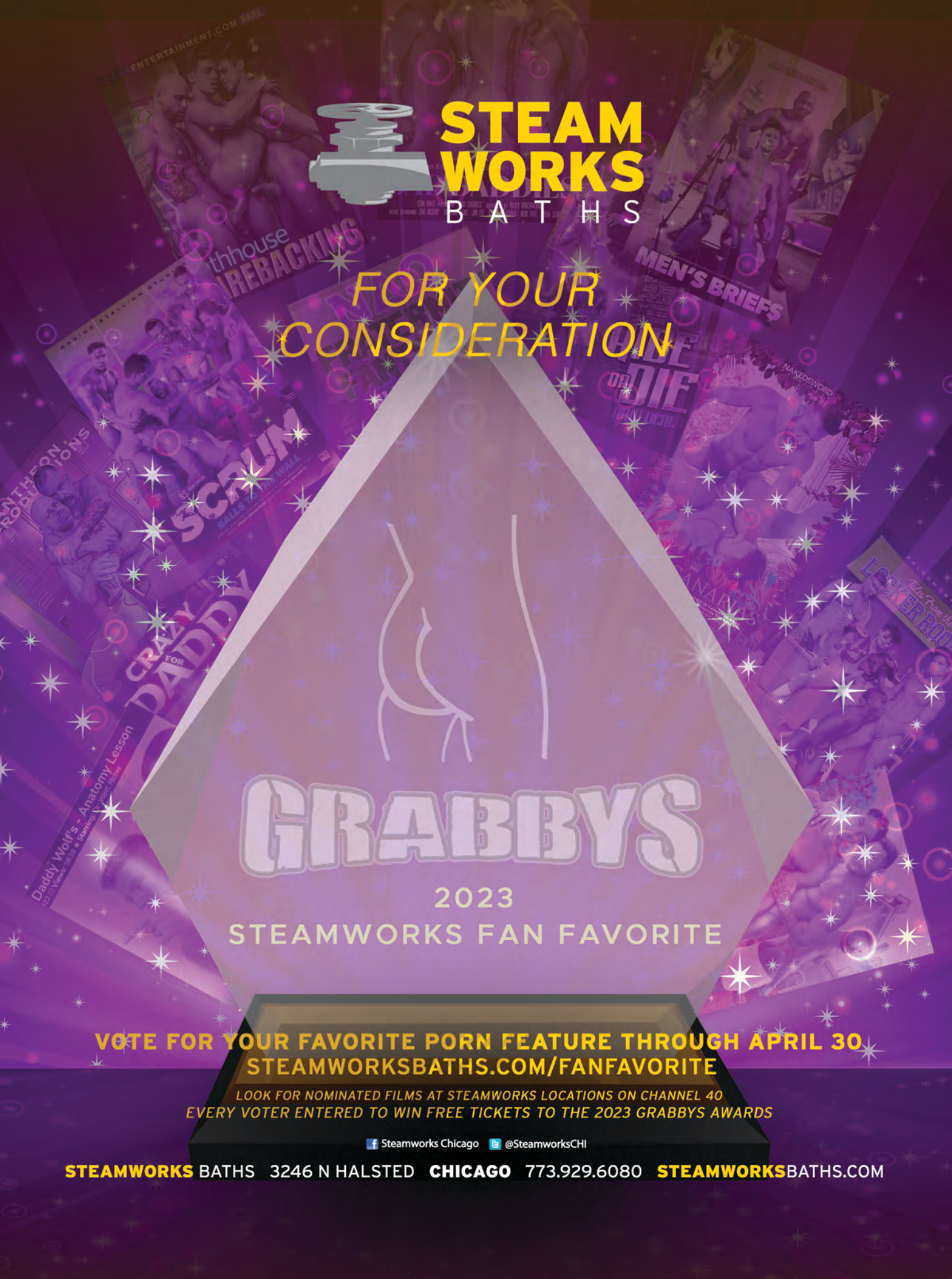
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Elevate Your Pride Game at Pride Toronto 2023

Toronto is home to one of the largest pride celebrations across the globe. With more than 2.4 million attendees in 2022, Pride Toronto came out of the pandemic with a fierce and thunderous roar! With one of the most diverse populations in the world, Pride Toronto is a massive celebration of diversity, inclusion, and all things queer. If you're looking to elevate your pride game, Pride Toronto is an absolute must!

Pride has been a long time in the making, from a small gathering of dedicated activists fighting for their right to love and be seen to the vibrant celebration we know and love today. Since 1970, the pride movement has supported 2SLGBTQ+ communities in pursuing the unequivocal right to be heard, understood, accepted, and respected.

From the first picnic organized by Toronto's first queer activist organizations that be came the "Gay Day Picnic" to the first Toronto Pride Week march in 1974 and the addition of the Trans March in 2009, Pride Toronto celebrates the communities that have con tinued to gather and celebrate the beauty and confidence that comes from being your most authentic self.

Pride Toronto was founded on the fundamental truth that love prevails, and we are all deserving of it. It continues a legacy that is deeply intertwined with the rich, progressive history of Toronto's queer community.

"While we celebrate how far we have come as a community, Pride Month is also a critical time to lift up and advocate for many vulnerable groups within the 2SLGBTQI+ community who continue to be marginalized and left behind," shared Board Co-Chairs Grant Gonzales and Yuri Hernandez.

Pride Toronto is a celebration of love and diversity, but there is always room to include important conversations about how we can help change our world for the better and improve acceptance and accessibility across our communities.

Toronto starts to celebrate all things queer with the coming of June, also known as Pride Month. The Pride festivities culminate on Festival Weekend—June 23-25—when the city's world-renowned Pride Parade takes over Yonge Street, the longest street in the world.

The weekend is known for being the best celebration in the country, and hotels and flights to the city book up well in advance. Make sure you book early to get in on the best deals and experiences Pride Toronto has to offer. In addition to the city's famous Pride Parade, Pride Toronto offers other exciting flagship events during Festival Weekend, including the Trans March, Dyke March, and StreetFair. With everyone wanting to get in on the celebration, Pride Toronto provides opportunities to experience some of the best DJs and perform ers in the world. And if drag is your thing, Pride Toronto has a vibrant Drag Ball planned as well! Toronto also offers some of the country's best cultural and culinary experiences.

Toronto is extremely accessible to Chicago. A flight to Toronto is just over an hour and a half, and you can land directly in the city center by flying into the airport. Come for the parade and stay for the whimsical and exciting performances, thought-provoking conversations, and immersive art installations.

Supporting Pride Toronto means amplifying these voices and prioritizing local, community-focused advocacy. With an even bigger and more fabulous festival in the works for 2023, make sure to firm up your plans soon, and elevate your Pride game!

CENTRAL STAGE © MEGAN MOORE

THE PRIDE SQUAD

SPRING FLING AT THE SALOON

THE PRIDE SQUAD

FRIDAY, APRIL 28 | 7PM-2AM

Join the N/W Suburbs Pride Squad Meetup Group at Miss Kitty's Saloon for our Spring Event! Miss Kitty's Saloon is now hosting LGBTGIF FRIDAYS and we're bringing the party!

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THE SOFO TAP

PhotosBy Anthony Meade

Photos By Anthony Meade

JOHN WATERS: END OF THE WORLD AT THE ECC ARTS CENTER ON MAY 6 , 2023

False Negative sure has changed and so has John Waters' spoken word show, now entitled *"End of the World"*. This all-new, fast-moving, comic monologue about today's despair and diseases, desires and desperation breaks through with an insane optimism that welcomes all audiencesinto a new dawn of depravity. How to reinvent the movie business, embrace stupidity in anintellectual way, even go beyond the limits of sexual transgression. John Waters, the man thepress has called "The People's Pervert", will mutate your madness into hope and lead you to ajoyous delirium ever after.

John Waters is a man of many monikers: The Prince of Puke, The Duke of Dirt, and The Sultan of Sleaze. Anyway you put it, John Waters is famed the world over for his trash epics including"*Pink Flamingos", "Female Trouble", "Desperate Living", "Polyester", "Serial Mom","Pecker", "Cecil B. Demented"*, and "A Dirty Shame". Two of his more surprising commercialfilms have been adapted for the stage. "*Hairspray"*, winner of eight Tony Awards, and *"Cry Baby – The Musical"* nominated for four Tony Awards. In the summer of 2007, "Hairspray" reinvented itself cinematically as a big-budget Hollywood movie starring John Travolta that became a smash hit worldwide.

Tickets to John Waters are $35. Tickets can be purchased online at ***eccartscenter.org*** and by phone at ***847-622-0300.*** The ECC Arts Center is located in Building H on Elgin Community College's Spartan Drive Campus, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin.

METROPOLIS ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS THE ACUTELY RENOWNED MUSICAL INSPIRED BY A NOVEL OF THE SAME NAME, RAGTIME MAY 4 - JUNE 10, 2023

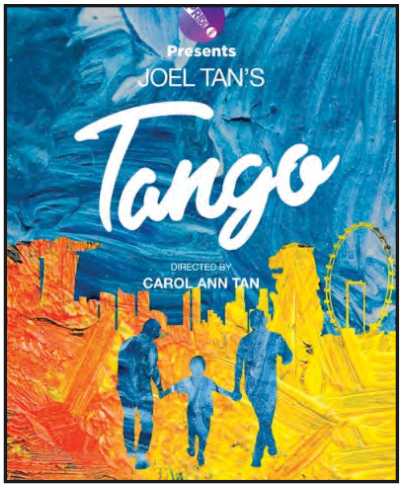
RAGTIME

A compelling portrait of life in early 20th century America, Ragtime, celebrates 13 Tony Award nominations and 4 wins, and both the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical and Best Score. This thrilling show is a challenging portrayal of the American Dream set in the volatile melting pot of turn-of-the-century New York, portrayed with the pageantry and glamor of robust present-day Broadway productions. Three ultimately different but distinctly American tales are woven together within the show – that of an upper-class white mother, a determined Jewish immigrant, and a daring Black musician – united by their courage and a heartening belief in the promise of the future. Ragtime is an inspiring story that confronts the contradictions existing in history of wealth and poverty, freedom and prejudice, hope and despair, and what it truly means to live the American Dream.

Ragtime was created based on the Novel Ragtime ***by E.L. Doctorow*** and adapted by a team of talented individuals including: Book by ***Terrence Mcnally***, with Lyrics by ***Lynn Ahrens*** and Music by ***Stephen Flaherty***. Directed by ***Jerrell L. Henderson***, Music Directed by ***Aaron Zmmerman,*** Choreographed by ***Jacinda Ratcliffe***. Designers are ***Eric Luchen*** (Scenic Designer), ***Adam Jezl-Sikorski*** (Lighting Designer), ***Abbey Nettleton*** (Sound Designer), ***Jazmin Medina*** (Costume/Wig Designer), ***Theresa Neumayer*** (Properties Designer). Stage Managed by ***Emma Ferguson***, Assistant Stage Managed by ***Alexandra Raffini.*** Metropolis Interim Artistic Director is ***Robbie Simpson***. Production Manager is ***Alexis Nau.***

For Tickets or more information Visit ***http://www.MetropolisArts.com***

CAST AND DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED FOR US PREMIERE OF SINGAPOREAN FAMILY DRAMA *"TANGO"*



PrideArts' 2022-23 season will close with the US Premiere of *TANGO* by Singaporean-born and London-based playwright ***Joel Tan***.

Described as one of the most exciting Singapore playwrights of his generation, the 36-year-old Tan has received acclaim for his plays' lyrical and incisive interrogation of his home city's politics and society. *TANGO* will be directed by Singaporean-born Chicago-based director and dramaturg ***Carol Ann Tan***. TANGO is inspired by the Blog *"4 Relative Strangers"* by ***James D. Williams*** and based loosely on the experiences of a real-life gay male couple with two adopted sons who moved their family to Singapore, a country with no protections or legal recognition for non-normative families. Singapore offers uneven levels of acceptance for LGBTQ lives and thus has what the playwright calls "an ongoing and exhausting public debate about LGBTQ equality." In *TANGO*, an elderly waitress insults a male couple and suggests the relationship with their adopted son is immoral.The incident becomes a social media sensation that causes havoc in the lives of the gay couple, their son, the couple's father/father in-law, the waitress, and the nephew she has raised like a son. Previews from May 11-14, and it will play through June 11, 2023.Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway, Chicago.

Tickets will be on sale soon at ***www.pridearts.org.***

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